GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:66
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2006
RECRUITMENT AGENCIES
Radhakrishnan Shri Varkala;Thummar Shri Virjibhai

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The State-wise and year-wise total number of companies which have been issued licenses for providing employment opportunities abroad during the last three years;

(b)Whether these companies are working as per the directions of the Government;

(c) Whether the Government has received complaints of irregularities and violation of norms against certain companies;

(d) If so, the details of the complaints received during the said period;

(e) The action taken by the Government against these companies and the nature thereof;

(f) Whether the Government proposes to amend the present Emigration Act, 1983 in order to put a check on illegal recruitment agencies; and

(g) If so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be amended?

Answer

MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.66 to be answered on 22nd February 2006.

(a)The State-wise and Year-wise total number of agencies which have been issued Registration Certificates for providing employment opportunities abroad during the last three years i.e. 2003, 2004 and 2005 are given in the statement at Annexure-I.

(b) By and large, these Recruiting Agencies are working as per provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983 and Rules framed thereunder.

(c & d) Yes Sir. Complaints have been received against certain agencies from various quarters including Indian Missions in the Gulf Countries, alleging ill- treatment of Indian workers. These complaints relate to non-payment/reduced payment of salary, overcharging by the Recruiting Agents, non-availability of promised jobs, substitution of employment contract, non receiving of the workers by their employer at the airport of destination, impounding of passports and work permits by the employer, physical and mental torture and sexual exploitation of housemaids/domestic workers, harsh punishment like flogging/caning etc. in some countries, maltreatment and exploitation by the foreign employer and adverse working conditions.

(e)During 2003, 2004 and 2005, 3, 24, 28 Registration Certificates have been suspended and 2, 2 and 16 Registration Certificates have been cancelled .

(f)&(g) Yes Sir. Existing Section 24 of the Emigration Act, 1983 provides for mandatory imprisonment for a minimum period of six months and a minimum fine of Rs. 1000/- in respect of agencies engaged in illegal recruitment. All offences under the Act are cognizable under Section 26 of the Act. During the year 2003, 2004 and 2005 prosecution sanctions have been given in 11,9 and 8 cases respectively. The Act is proposed to be amended to provide more deterrent punishment and harsher penalties to the illegal recruitment agencies.

ANNEXURE-I

Annexure refer to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 66 part (a) to be answered on 22nd February, 2006

Sl. No.	Name of State / UT	Year- 2003	Year- 2004	Year- 2005
1.	Maharashtsra	92	79	62
2.	Delhi	54	57	57
3.	Tamil Nadu	21	25	42
4.	Kerala	25	29	38
5.	Punjab	17	27	24
6.	Andhra Pradesh	08	16	18
7	Chandigarh	06	13	12
8.	Karnataka-	02	11	10
9.	Rajasthan-	03	11	11
10.	Uttar Pradesh	04	04	02
11.	Goa	03	05	04
12.	Gujarat	06	03	08
13.	West Bengal	03	05	02
14.	Haryana	-	02	04
15.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	01
16.	Orissa	01	-	-
17.	Jammu & Kashmir	02	01	-
18.	Uttaranchal	-	-	01
19.	Himachal Pradesh	-	01	-
20.	Mizoram	-	-	02
	Total	249	293	296